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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois General Assembly wish  
3 to recognize and thank the 32 school districts that, in  
4 conjunction with the Illinois State Board of Education, have  
5 participated in the United States Department of Education's  
6 Race to the Top Phase 3 initiative; and

7           WHEREAS, The following districts made great strides in  
8 advancing student learning outcomes: Addison School District  
9 #4, Bensenville Elementary School District #2, Bloomington  
10 Public School District #87, Brooklyn Unit District #188,  
11 Calumet Public School District #132, Canton Union School  
12 District #66, Carbon Cliff-Barstow School District #36,  
13 Country Club Hills School District #160, City of Chicago Public  
14 School District #299, East Richland Community Unit School  
15 District #1, East Saint Louis School District #189, Eastland  
16 Community Unit School District #308, Freeport School District  
17 #145, Illini Central School District #189, Marion Community  
18 Unit School District #2, Matteson School District #162, McLean  
19 Community Unit School District #5, Morrison Community Unit  
20 School District #6, Niles Township High School District #219,  
21 Pembroke Community Consolidated School District #259, Peoria  
22 School District #150, Prairie-Hills Elementary School District  
23 #144, Rantoul City District #137, Rich Township High School  
24 District #227, Sandoval Community Unit School District #501,

1 Sterling Community Unit School District #5, Township High  
2 School District #211, Unity Point School District #140, Urbana  
3 School District #116, Wabash Community Unit School District  
4 #348, Winnebago Community Unit School District #323, and Zion  
5 Elementary School District #6; and

6 WHEREAS, The federal grant began in December of 2012 and  
7 consists of 4 key focus areas for school improvement and  
8 increasing student achievement; Illinois was one of the only  
9 states to implement all 16 components in those areas; and

10 WHEREAS, The districts represent 20% of the Illinois public  
11 schools, 25% of the total Illinois student population, and 38%  
12 of low income students; and

13 WHEREAS, The districts are preparing students for college  
14 and careers, creating a workforce of highly effective teachers  
15 and leaders, and building data systems that measure student  
16 success; and

17 WHEREAS, The grantee districts have been working  
18 diligently towards increasing student outcomes through  
19 aligning the New Illinois Learning Standards across the  
20 curriculum, developing Science Technology Engineering and Math  
21 (STEM) programs, developing local assessments and student  
22 growth measures, implementing comprehensive district

1 improvement plans/processes, induction and mentoring programs  
2 for new teachers and principals, implementing the Performance  
3 Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) on an accelerated timeline,  
4 engaging community stakeholders in their schools and  
5 districts, and utilizing the 5Essentials survey of learning  
6 conditions; and

7 WHEREAS, The grantee districts are applying innovative  
8 thinking and approaches to the work, collaborating between the  
9 districts, sharing best-practices, and building state  
10 capacity; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
12 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
13 acknowledge the hard work and dedication of these districts to  
14 improve educational outcomes for students, and for their  
15 collaborative work with the Illinois State Board of Education  
16 in accelerating key educational reforms that aim to close  
17 achievement gaps while increasing student achievement and  
18 preparedness for college and careers; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
20 presented to the 32 school districts participating in the Race  
21 to the Top initiative as a symbol of our esteem and respect.